

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

### A WIDE RANGE OF TOPICS DISCUSSED.

**President Harrison not so far off from the Democrats as Once he Was on the Subject of Tariff Reform and the Surplus.**

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 2.—After the usual exchange of greetings, the President received the members of the cabinet and the members of the Senate and House of Representatives.

The recommendation of the international conference of enlightened statesmen will doubtless have the consideration of congress and its cooperation in the removal of unnecessary barriers to beneficial intercourse between the nations of America. But while the commercial results, which it is hoped will follow this conference, are worthy of pursuit and of the great interest they have excited, it is believed that the crowning benefit will be found in the better securities which may be devised for the maintenance of peace among all American nations and the settlement of all contentions by methods that a Christian civilization can approve. While viewing with interest our national resources and prospects, the delegates will, I am sure, find a higher satisfaction in the evidences of unselfish friendships, which everywhere attend their intercourse with our people.

**THE MARITIME CONFERENCE.**  
Another international conference having great possibilities for good, has lately assembled and is now in session in this capital. As a direct response to the invitation of the United States, the delegates from the maritime nations of the world, to all maritime nations to send delegates to confer touching the revision and amendment of the rules and regulations governing vessels at sea, and to adopt a uniform system of maritime signals, have gathered here. This invitation has been very general and very cordial. Delegates from twenty-six nations are present in the conference, and they have entered upon their useful duties.

**DIPLOMATIC RANK.**  
Of the American system our diplomatic agents in those countries should be of the uniform rank of envoys extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary. Certain missions were so elevated by the last congress with happy effect, and I recommend the completion of the reform thus begun, with the inclusion also of the Hawaiian Islands, and in view of their relations to the American system of States I also recommend that timely provision be made for extending to Hawaii an invitation to be represented in the international conference now sitting at this capital.

**RELATIONS WITH CHINA.**  
Our relations with China have the attentive consideration which their magnitude and importance demand. The treaty negotiated under the administration of my predecessor for the further and more complete restriction of Chinese labor immigration, and with it the legislation of the last session of congress dependent thereon, leaves some questions open which congress should now approach in that wise and just spirit which should characterize the relations of two great and friendly powers, while our supreme interests demand the exclusion of a laboring element whose experience has shown to be incompatible with our social life.

**THE FISHERIES QUESTION.**  
On the part of the government of the Dominion of Canada an effort has been apparent during the season just ended to administer the laws and regulations applicable to the fisheries with as little occasion for friction as was possible, and the temperate representations of the government in respect of cases of undue hardships, or of harsh interpretation have been in most cases met with measures of transitory relief.

**CUBA AND THE ISLANDS.**  
The importance of the commerce of Cuba and Porto Rico with the United States, their nearest and principal market, justifies the expectation that the relations between the two countries will be beneficially expanded. The impediments resulting from varying duties on navigation and from the vexatious treatment of our vessels on merely technical grounds of complaint in West India ports should be removed. The progress toward the settlement of pending claims between the United States and Spain is not as rapid as could be desired.

**NICARAGUA CANAL.**  
In pursuance of the charter granted by congress, and under the terms of its contract, with the government of Nicaragua, the Inter-Oceanic Canal Company has begun their construction of the important water way between the two oceans, which its organization contemplates. Grave complications for a time seemed imminent in view of a supposed conflict of jurisdiction between Nicaragua and Costa Rica, in regard to the territory claimed to be ceded by the latter to the republic toward the construction of works on the San Juan river, of which the right bank is Costa Rican territory. I am happy to learn that a friendly arrangement has been effected between the two nations.

**FISCAL MATTERS.**  
The aggregate receipts from all sources for the year were \$387,005,088.84, derived as follows: From customs, \$223,832,741.69; from internal revenue, \$130,881,513.92; from miscellaneous sources, 32,335,803.23. The ordinary expenditures for the same period were \$281,996,615.60, and the total expenditures, including the sinking fund, were \$329,579,929.25. The excess of the receipts over the expenditures was \$57,425,169.59.

For the current fiscal year, the total revenues, actual and estimated are \$385,000,000, and the ordinary expenditures actual and estimated are \$293,000,000; making, with the sinking fund, total expenditures, \$343,321,116.99, leaving an estimated surplus of \$43,678,883.01.

**DISPOSAL OF THE SURPLUS.**  
The existence of so large and actual and anticipated surplus should have the immediate attention of congress, with a view to reducing the receipts of the treasury to the needs of the government, as closely as may be. The collection of money not needed for public uses imposes an unnecessary burden upon our people, and the presence of so large a surplus in the public vaults is a disturbing element in the conduct of private business. It has called into use expedients, for putting it into circulation, of a very questionable propriety. We should not collect revenues for the purpose of anticipating our needs beyond the requirements of the sinking fund, but any unappropriated surplus in the treasury should be so used, as there is no other

lawful way of returning the money to circulation, and the profits recognized by the government officers a substantial advantage. The leading of public funds to the banks without interest, upon the security of the government bonds, I regard as an unwarranted and dangerous precedent in its results a temporary and immaterial increase of the banking capital of favored localities, and compels a cautious and gradual recall of the deposits to avoid injury to the commercial interests. It is not to be expected, and the banks having these deposits will not their bonds to the treasury, so long as the present, highly beneficial arrangement is conducted. They now practically get interest, both upon the bonds and their proceeds. No further use should be made of this method of getting rid of the surplus.

**REVISION OF THE TARIFF LAWS.**  
I recommend a revision of our tariff law both in its administrative features and in the schedules. The need of the farmer is generally conceded and an agreement upon the evils and inconvenience to be remedied, and the best methods for their correction will probably not be difficult. Uniformity of valuation at all our ports is essential and effective measures should be taken to secure it. It is equally desirable that questions affecting rates and classifications should be promptly decided. The preparation of a new schedule of custom duties is a matter of great delicacy because of its direct effect upon the business of the country and the great difficulty by reason of the wide divergence of opinion as to the objects that may properly be promoted by such legislation. Some disturbance of business may perhaps result from the consideration of this subject by congress, but this temporary ill effect will be reduced to the minimum by prompt action.

The necessary reduction in our public revenues can, I am sure, be made without making the latter's burden more onerous than the larger by reason of the disabilities and limitations which the process of reduction puts upon both capital and labor. The free list can very safely be extended by placing various articles that do not offer serious competition to such domestic products as our home labor can supply. The removal of the internal tax upon tobacco would relieve a burdensome agricultural product from a burden which was imposed only for the revenue from customs duties was insufficient for the public needs.

**INTERNAL REVENUE, ETC.**  
Irate provision against fraud can be devised the removal of the tax upon spirits used in the arts and in manufactures, would also offer an objectionable method of reducing the surplus. A public credit established by the secretary of the treasury, showing the amount of money of all kinds in circulation each year from 1878 to the present time, is of interest. It appears that the amount of national bank notes in circulation has decreased during the period \$114,109,729, while the \$57,799,229 is chargeable to the last year. The withdrawal of bank circulation will necessarily continue under the existing circumstances. It is probable that the adoption of the suggestions made by the committee on the currency, viz: that the minimum deposit of bonds for the establishment of notes be reduced, and that an issue of notes to the par value of bonds be allowed, would help to maintain the bank circulation, but while this withdrawal of bank notes has been going on there has been a large increase in the amount of gold and silver coin in circulation and in the issues of gold and silver certificates.

**THE SILVER COINAGE QUESTION.**  
I think it is clear that if we should make the coinage of silver at the present rates free we must expect that the difference in the bullion values of the gold and silver dollars will be taken account of in commercial transactions, and I fear this same result will follow any considerable increase of the present rate of coinage. Such a result would be disastrous to our financial, commercial, and disastrous to all business interests. We should not tread the dangerous edge of such a policy, which would have the effect of that it has been so recently formulated, the details of such a law require careful consideration, but the general plan suggested seems to satisfy the purpose to continue the use of silver in connection with our currency, and at the same time to remove the danger of which I have spoken.

**COAST DEFENSES.**  
Judged by modern standards, we are woefully without coast defenses. Many of the structures we have would exhaust rather than diminish the perils of our harbors if subjected to the fire of improved guns, and very few are so located as to give full effect to the greater range of such guns as we are multiplying for coast defense. This general subject has had consideration in congress for some years, and the appropriation for the construction of large rifle guns made one year ago was, I am sure, the expression of public sentiment on this question.

I approve the suggestion of the secretary of war that provision be made for employing officers of the national guard in coast work for a specified time each year and for their training in the use of heavy guns. His suggestion that an increase of the artillery force of the army is desirable is also in this connection commended to the consideration of congress.

**SUPREME AND INTERMEDIATE COURTS.**  
The necessity of providing some speedy method for disposing of the cases which now come for final adjudication to the supreme court becomes every year more apparent and urgent. The plan of providing some intermediate courts having final appellate jurisdiction of certain classes of questions and cases has, I think, received a more general approval from the bench and bar of the country than any other. Without attempting to discuss details, I recommend that provision be made for the establishment of such courts.

**REVISION OF NATURALIZATION LAWS.**  
Our naturalization laws should be so revised as to make the inquiry into the moral character and good disposition towards our government of the persons applying for citizenship more thorough. This can only be done by taking fuller control of the examination by fixing the terms for hearing such applications, and by requiring the presence of some one who shall represent the government in the inquiry. Those who are the avowed enemies of social order who come to our shores to swell the injurious influence and extend the evil practices of any association that defies our laws should not only be denied citizenship but a domicile. The enactment of a national bankrupt law, of a character to be a permanent part of our general legislation is desirable. It should be simple in its method

## ASHEVILLE, N. C., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1889.

### RAILROAD MEETING.

**Mass Meeting Called for Tuesday, December 10th.**

In obedience to the following passed by a meeting of the people at the courthouse on the 2nd inst., I hereby request the good citizens to assemble at the courthouse in Asheville on the day designated, and there to make known their wishes in regard to the proposition that may be presented for their consideration and endorsement. This is an important matter to the people of this county, and it is hoped our good citizens will turn out and express themselves freely in regard to the matter.

Whereas, There exists great inconvenience, expense and loss to the farmers of those sections of Buncombe county, not supplied with the advantages of railroads, and

Whereas, Opportunities are now offered of having these sections provided for in this respect, and

Whereas, The increased wealth of Asheville and the county is such that we can well afford the needed assistance without additional burdens in the way of taxation. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting issue a call for a mass meeting of the people of this county to assemble at Asheville, on Tuesday, the 10th day of December, for the purpose of taking such action in regard to this matter as its importance demands, and said mass meeting to be held at the courthouse.

Resolved, further, That the commissioners of this county be requested to have a called meeting of their board on Wednesday, December 11, in order that the wishes of the people may be carried out in the way of a submission of the proposition to the people of the county for their endorsement at the ballot-box.

**Journalistic Enterprise.**  
We say without disparagement to other similar enterprises yet undertaken in this State, that the centennial issue gotten out by the Fayetteville Observer to commemorate and perpetuate the brilliant celebration surpasses them all. It contains ten pages, is clearly printed on book paper, abounds with well written descriptive articles, letters and speeches, and is adorned with numerous engravings, portraits of distinguished men present, orators, divines, marshals and others. A high merit of the whole is that the work is all done at home. The illustrations are the work of the Carolina Engraving Company, of Fayetteville, and are excellent, and we find among them many a familiar face so truthfully presented that they seem to speak for themselves. We congratulate the Observer on the perfect success of its admirable work.

### Hose Company Meeting.

The regular annual meeting of the hose company No. 1, was held last night. The usual routine work was finished and Captain H. C. Fagg was re-elected captain. J. H. McDowell was re-elected first assistant foreman, and J. R. Rich was re-elected second assistant foreman. Greer and McDowell were elected first nozzlemen, John Carroll and Wayne Ray second nozzlemen, C. A. Smith and C. Sawyer, third nozzlemen, J. M. Murray plugman, and C. H. Miller assistant plugman. E. H. Lewis was proposed by the investigating committee as a new member and was elected.

### Trinity College.

Is not in this—the Holston—Conference, but as an institution of learning and also of theological training, it is of interest to all Methodists in the State. They will therefore be pleased to learn that the question of removal has been decided at the conference at Greensboro. The sentiment in favor of removal to Raleigh was overwhelming, and it was resolved to do so, that city having guaranteed to put up buildings to the value of \$35,000.

### A Purchase.

Mr. Frank Longhorne yesterday bought the Bonanza building on South Main street, paying Mr. H. S. Harkins, the owner \$8,000 cash. It is the purpose of Mr. Longhorne to greatly improve the property. His stock is a large one. His establishment is the finest of the kind in the State. The place has high character for good order, and that it is the determination of the owner to maintain.

### A Complaining Subscriber.

A subscriber to our daily living between here and Black Mountain asks us to ventilate his very well founded grievances. His paper is almost uniformly carried by—which we can readily understand, because of the short time allowed to the route agent for sorting his matter—and brought back so irregularly as to lose all their value. We ask the authorities to look into the matter and provide a remedy.

### Brown's Stables Burned.

The stables of Mr. J. V. Brown, the undertaker, on Academy street, were burned down last night. The fire was discovered between 7 and 8 o'clock, and the hose company was soon on the scene. But the fire had made too great headway and the building could not be saved. Everything in it was removed safely, however. The fire is supposed to have been caused by the carelessness of the boy, who took charge of the stock.

### The President's Message.

Our telegraphic service gave us the whole of President Harrison's message without abbreviation; but its great length forbids its insertion, except at the cost of exclusion of all other matter. We therefore present our readers with the most important topics presented.

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## PERSONAL MENTIONS.

The editor of the Waynesville Courier, Mr. Z. V. Rogers, is at the Grand Central.

Mr. J. H. McAden, a prominent lawyer, of Charlotte, N. C., is at the Battery Park.

Mr. Frank L. Longhorne, the well known proprietor of Hickory Inn, is stopping at the Swannanoa.

Mr. J. F. Murrill, editor of the Press and Carolinian, of Hickory, is registered at the Grand Central.

Mr. Charles Price, United States district attorney, is in attendance upon Bancroft's superior court.

Mr. E. M. Smith, who represents the firm of Cullen and Newman, of Knoxville, Tenn., is at the Grand Central.

Among the arrivals at the Grand Central is Mr. A. S. Bryon, of Franklin, who represents the firm of Haines, Hanson, & Co., of Knoxville Tenn.

T. C. Shorb, of Canton, Ohio, is stopping at the Grand Central. He superintends the building of the bridge of the Southern Improvement Company.

Mr. W. Page, the general manager of the Scottish Carolina Timber and Land Improvement Company, is among the recent arrivals at the Swannanoa.

Mr. J. S. Johnson, of Charlotte, is at the Swannanoa. He has charge of the branch house of Tallott & Sons, of Richmond, Va., which is located there.

Mr. W. C. Sprinkle, one of the leading tobacco planters of Madison, and a leader in the cure of "brights," came up from Marshall yesterday afternoon.

Mrs. L. Hutchinson, Miss Hutchinson, and Miss Armstrong, prominent Brooklyntes, who are friends of Col. Finck, are registered at the Battery Park.

Mrs. R. Green, the mother of Mr. E. Green, who has been at Battery Park for some time for his health and has been greatly benefited during his stay here, has registered at the Battery Park.

Mr. W. V. Bench, representing the Scientific American, is in the city, at Dr. von Kuck's. Mr. B. is a gentleman of high culture, and an extensive traveler, and in conversation highly entertaining and instructive.

Mr. and Mrs. Joshua Cowpland have come to Asheville on account of the ill health of their son Mr. Joshua Cowpland, Jr. If they find the Asheville climate does not agree with him, they intend to go to Aiken, and then to Florida.

Col. H. Blanchard and Miss F. C. Blanchard, his daughter, arrived last night at the Battery Park. Col. Blanchard is a prominent New Yorker and stops at the Windsor Hotel when in that city.

Rev. McNeely Du Bose, of Union, S. C., has arrived in this city and is stopping at the Swannanoa. He is an Episcopal clergyman and many prominent citizens called upon him, among whom were, the Rev. Jarvis Buxton, Capt. T. W. Patton, Mr. Laurence P. Hallam, Dr. Douglass, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Cushman, Mr. S. R. Kepler, Mr. J. H. Law, and Capt. W. C. Troy.

### A Legal Surprise.

This is a caption of a lead in the Evening Journal of yesterday, and a most suitable caption it is, because our brother has assuredly given a legal surprise to every lawyer in Asheville, to the city authorities, and doubtless to Major W. W. McDowell, the plaintiff in the suit referred to, when he states that "the avenue with the city railway upon it, reverts to the original owners of the land."

The facts of the case are, that some two years ago a jury was summoned to assess damages on a street now known as Southside avenue, a part of which was located upon lands of Major McDowell, who appeared from the finding of the jury, as he had a right to do, only on the point that he had not been awarded adequate damages. Under the provisions of the city charter this appeal did not operate to prevent the opening of the street, but, upon tendering the amount of damage awarded by the jury, the mayor had a right to order the work to proceed. This was done, and the avenue was opened, and afterwards, by virtue of an ordinance of the board of aldermen, the Asheville Street Railway Company located thereon its principal line.

On yesterday, Major McDowell's appeal came up for hearing in the superior court, and Mr. T. H. Cobb, attorney for the city, moved that the case be thrown out of court because of certain irregularities, which he held to be fatal to the case of the plaintiff. We understand that Hon. C. A. Moore, the counsel for plaintiff, argued that if this was done, the whole proceedings, *ab initio*, would be null and void, and that Judge Whitaker expressed an inclination to that view, but the judgment has not yet been rendered. Should it go to this length the city's attorney will probably appeal in order to save the necessity and expense of a new jury. This is the most that could happen in any event, and that is a question entirely between the city of Asheville of one part, and Major W. W. McDowell of the other, and a matter in which the Asheville Street Railway Company has no more interest than any other citizen of Asheville.

### Masonic Notice.

A special communication of Asheville Lodge No. 410 A. F. and A. M., will be held this Wednesday evening at eight o'clock. Brethren cordially invited.

J. A. CONANT, Secretary.

## FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

### PROCEEDINGS OF THE TWO HOUSES YESTERDAY.

**Very Little Business Except the Reading of the President's Message, Which Occupied Nearly Two Hours.**

WASHINGTON, December 3.—SENATE.—Immediately after reading of yesterday's journal a message from the house was presented by Messrs. McPherson, announcing the organization of that body. Then Mr. Edmunds, on the part of the joint committee to wait on the President, reported it had performed the duty, and had been informed by the President that he would communicate with the two houses by a message in writing immediately. Thereupon, the message from the President announced at 12:08 p. m. The message was received, and the secretary of the senate, Mr. McCook, proceeded to read it.

The reading of the message was concluded at half past 1 o'clock, p. m., having occupied about one hour and twenty minutes. It was listened to with apparently close attention by senators on both sides of the chamber. As one of the paragraphs touching taxation was read, a republican senator remarked in a whisper, that it sounded very like Cleveland. On the motion of Sherman, it was laid on the table, and ordered printed, and then the senate at 1:30 o'clock adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE.—Immediately after the reading of the journal, the committee appointed to wait upon the President and inform him that the house was organized and ready to proceed to business, delivered the message, and through its chairman, Mr. McKinley, informed the house that it had performed its duty, and the President would communicate with the house in writing. Mr. Prudden, one of the President's secretaries, then delivered the message, which was immediately read by the clerk.

But little attention was paid to the reading of the message which consumed nearly two hours. The message was ordered printed and referred to the committee of the whole. Under authority given by the last senate civil appropriation bill, the speaker appointed Mr. Bayne, Mr. Hill, Mr. Carter, Mr. Culbertson, of Texas, and Mr. Cummings as a committee on the centennial celebration. The house then at 2:15 adjourned until Thursday.

The democratic caucus was announced to be held at 7:30 this evening.

### Y. M. C. A. GYMNASIUM.

**This Department to be Opened for Use Friday Night.**

At a meeting of the educational committee of the Young Men's Christian Association it was decided to open the gymnasium for use Friday night, December 6, at 7:30 o'clock. A committee of athletic young men has been organized to take charge of the gymnasium each evening of the week and to conduct drills in calisthenics, Indian clubs, dumbbells and heavy gymnastics each night from 8:30 to 9 o'clock. It was decided that no one should be admitted to the gymnasium except full members of the association, and that no one should be allowed to exercise without gymnasium slippers.

For the present the directors will be the following:  
Monday—Mr. Roy Denison.  
Tuesday—Prof. P. P. Claxton.  
Wednesday—Mr. Charles Erdman.  
Thursday—Mr. E. B. Lewis.  
Friday—Mr. E. P. Mangum.  
Saturday—Mr. Clarence F. Ray.

The physical examiner will be Dr. J. A. Watson. Any full member desiring a physical examination may obtain it free of charge. Appropriate exercise will also be prescribed. Dr. Watson may be seen at his house any day during his office hours, from 12 to 2 o'clock p. m. It is hoped that a large number of young men will at once take advantage of this means of acquiring physical culture and keeping in good physical condition.

### Y. M. C. A. Rooms Open.

The Young Men's Christian Association rooms, at 26 Patton avenue, are now open and visitors will be welcome from 9 o'clock a. m. to 10 o'clock p. m. Any young man of moral character over 16 years of age, whether he is a church member or not, may become a full member by the payment of seven dollars in advance, and will be entitled to the privileges of the reading room, parlors, receptions, medical and practical talks, and gymnasium, with tub and shower baths.

The limited membership, admitting to all these privileges, except the gymnasium and bath rooms, will cost only \$2.00 per year in advance. Either full or limited members may become active members upon election by the association if they are members in good standing or are associate members and are entitled to all the privileges of active members except of voting and holding office.

Provision for boys will be made in the form of a junior department, with a separate reading room and special gymnasium hours as soon as the plans can be perfected.

### ODDS AND ENDS.

Dr. Duncan J. McKim, who has been spending the past two months at Mrs. VanGilder's, left yesterday for his home in Washington.

The Rev. John Ammons will preach to-night at the French Broad Baptist church.

Mr. Pelham has removed from his well known establishment on South Main street to his elegantly fitted up new store in the Harkins block on Patton avenue. As soon as Mr. A. Whitlock can make the needed changes and improvements in Pelham's former home he will remove therein. It will be fitted up as a clothing emporium, leaving the premises he now occupies. His combined floor area will then be 4,400 square feet.